

Santa Barbara Mission
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County,
California

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of California #3.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Henry F. Withey, District Officer
407 So. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, California

MISSION SANTA BARBARA
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California

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Owner: The Franciscan Order of Santa Barbara.

Date of erection: Corner-stone of church laid in 1815,
building completed in 1820.

Architect: Padre Ripoll.

Builder: Built by Indian labor under direction of
Padre Ripoll.

Present condition: The present church and monastery attached are the only structures remaining of the original construction. Minor changes and repairs have been made in the course of years to meet the needs of the church. Buildings at the West of the Monastery noted on the plans as "Modern Building" are used as living quarters.

A severe earthquake in 1925 did considerable damage to the church and monastery. In the reconstruction performed in 1925 and 1926 under the direction of Ross Montgomery, Architect, of Los Angeles, the church towers were rebuilt in reinforced concrete faced with stone inside and out. The church walls were topped off with reinforced concrete bond beams and the same was used in reroofing the chapels and in numerous other parts of the building. The roof construction was entirely rebuilt and at the same time enlargements and improvements were made in the plan of the sacristy and choir room. In the Monastery a new reinforced concrete floor construction was placed over the second floor and all second story walls were replaced with concrete. The roof also was reconstructed.

Materials of construction: Walls of church and the towers were built of yellow sandstone, the first story walls of the Monastery are of adobe brick and the piers and arches of the cloisters are of burned brick. The old roof framing was of pine timbers brought from the Santa Cruz Islands a few miles off the coast. The exterior walls of the church are lime painted in color on the stone while those of the monastery are plastered and painted. In general the floors including those of cloisters are of tile. Roofs are of large mission tile.

Other existing records: Architect Ross Montgomery retains in his office measured drawings of the church and monastery made just after the earthquake of 1925.

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Additional data: The Mission was the tenth of the twenty one Missions founded in California. The present church of stone is the fourth constructed upon the site. The first two, built of adobe and thatch roofed were considered temporary; the third, also of adobe but with a tile roof was wrecked by an earthquake in 1812.

June 1, 1937